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DP/PROJECTS/2839
(MLI/76/004)
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APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MALI

Groundwater Development in Rural Areas (Phase III) (Supplementary Assistance) (MLI/76/004)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	March 1979
Starting date of project activities:	January 1977 (Including previous assistance)
Planned completion date:	December 1982
To be executed by:	United Nations
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Industrial Development and Tourism
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$329 300
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. In June 1967, UNDP assistance for the project, Strengthening of Government Services for Groundwater Exploration and Development (MLI/67/507)1/ was approved. In 1973, the full force of the Sahelian drought began to be felt in Mali. To counteract the effects, the Government decided to extend the project with the principal purpose of providing the support needed to handle the large-scale assistance the Republic of Mali was to receive for research, construction and digging of wells. A phase II project (MLI/74/001) was subsequently approved in May 1974 which ended at the close of 1976.

1/ DP/SF/R.4/Add.27,

*In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. The problem of water supply, both for production and for the population, however, continues to be of the utmost importance to the Malian economy, particularly in view of the recent drought. Consequently, one of the priority objectives of the Government in its national and regional strategy is to prevent the country's economy from again being exposed to the consequences of such disasters.

3. In the light of the success already achieved in the previous projects, the Government requested UNDP for continued assistance in the present Phase III project in which other agencies of the United Nations system, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) would also be involved. Such assistance was approved in 1977 2/. Supplementary assistance has now been approved primarily to reflect the actual expenses incurred by the project in 1977 and also to take into account the new pro forma cost of experts starting from 1978. It does not change in any way the conception of the project nor the activities originally approved for it.

II. Objectives and activities

4. The long-term objective of the project continues to be the improvement of the economic and social conditions of the rural populations, in particular health conditions, by providing them, as well as their livestock, with an adequate quantity of potable water and thus preventing, or at least reducing, the effects of any recurrence of a drought.

5. The short-term objectives remain to: (a) increase the pysical and human resources of the Groundwater Division and in particular to increase the number of drilling rigs available to the Department of Water Resources and Energy; (b) carry out hydrogeological surveys to identify water points; (c) drill approximately 2,000 boreholes; (d) install pumps at as many productive boreholes as possible and ensure their maintenance for an initial period; and (e) train national staff to operate drilling units.

III. Inputs

6. UNDP will continue to be responsible for the principal operations of the project, through the provision of experts, drillers, the training of local personnel on the spot and abroad, the supply of the drilling equipment and other related operational expenses.

7. The Government will put at the disposal of the project a sizeable number of technical staff (hydrogeologists, drilling engineer, drillers, etc.) as well as health staff (sanitary engineer, sanitary agents, etc.), expendable and non-expendable materials and operational funds.

2/ DP/PROJECTS/1839.

IV. Financial data

8. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

	Previously approved $	Present approval $	Total approved $
Personnel	3 239 685	168 147	3 407 832
Training	21 660	7 860	29 520
Equipment	2 353 723	48 643	2 402 366
Miscellaneous	197 500	104 650	302 150
	5 812 568	329 300	6 141 868

9. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $1,360,800 in kind.